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April 19, 2016

CPUC President Michael Picker  
505 Van Ness  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Support of Provisions within the APD on Aliso Canyon

Dear President Picker:

I am writing you in my capacity as Chairman of your Low Income Oversight Board (LIOB) with regard to our Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) response to the natural gas leak at San Aliso Canyon Storage facility. As you know, the LIOB works as an oversight body that advises the California Public Utilities Commission on energy public purpose programs that target and serve low-income populations here in the State of California; ESA is such a program.

As Chair, I have the privilege to work with a cross section of both private and public energy authorities together with contractor professionals. Our collective efforts put in place California's effective low-income energy efficiency services (ESA) program that is, in my opinion, the finest private-public partnership in government. Many of these stakeholders have spoken in support of the Assigned Commissioner's Proposed Decision with regard to the problematic nature of the PD's 10% energy threshold as a requirement; and I agree with them.

The ESA program is distinctive in that it serves low income residents only. A central piece of the ESA program statute is the health safety and comfort of eligible ratepayers to better ensure that low-income populations are included with effective and efficient appliance replacement and weatherization efforts. No one understands the uniqueness of the ESA program with this proviso better than Commissioner Sandoval.

I have the privilege of working directly with Commissioner Sandoval on the LIOB. As you know, she is the Assigned Commissioner with regard to ESA for this proceeding. It is clear to me and others that Commissioner Sandoval has the experience with ESA, the relationships, the institutional knowledge of the energy efficiency contractor network and other critical factors (including her exceptional staff) that provide her with singular credentials that factor intelligence and input from both the Commission and external

stakeholders. Her leadership will avoid unnecessary delays and her order (APD) establishing her authority in this matter should be approved.

Finally, it is my belief that a system-wide approach to addressing this emergency is warranted. On this issue both IOUs agree. But it is why they agree that is paramount and warrants your consideration. Both Southern California Gas and Southern California Electric administer the ESA programs and are intimate with protocols and processes that may become unduly encumbered by an energy savings threshold delaying an effective response. I have over 25 years experience in both state government and business and I have learned this, there is a gap that we must bridge between policy and programs if we are to be successful. Therefore, given the IOUs experience with administering the ESA program and their unanimity on advocating for a system wide approach, I agree with them.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment and I would appreciate your consideration with regard to these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Castaneda

c.c. Commissioner Michael Florio  
Commissioner Carla J. Peterman  
Commissioner Liane M. Randolph  
Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval